



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** October 18, 2017

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is requesting public comment regarding a proposed action on the Pawnee National Grassland called the Wildwood Federal #1 Oil and Gas Well Project. The project area is about 4.5 miles north of Briggsdale, Colorado. The legal description is T. 9 N., R. 62 W., 6th P.M., sec. 32, NE¼. A map of the project area is attached. Before authorizing any use and occupancy, the USFS will analyze the effects of the proposed action in an environmental assessment as required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA 36 CFR 220.7(a)). You may recall that the USFS originally began analyzing this as a Categorical Exclusion with a decision memo in 2015. An environmental assessment addresses some concerns about the documentation of comments and analysis. We are interested in your thoughts regarding any issues, concerns, or opportunities. If you commented during scoping for the previously proposed decision memo, we will be considering those comments as we prepare the environmental assessment.

The FS proposes to concur with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) authorization of Duncan Oil Company (DOC) to construct, operate, and maintain an oil and gas well and production facility, with an access road, at a single location on the Pawnee National Grassland.

This project would meet the management direction set forth in the 1997 Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan - Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (Forest Plan) found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/land/arp/landmanagement>.

This project is subject to the Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process (objection process) described in 36 CFR 218. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received thirty days after the legal notice appeared in the Fort Collins Coloradoan. See Comment Instructions attached.

The FS needs to complete this project in order to comply with the Mineral Leasing Act (as amended), the Federal On-Shore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act, multiple parts of Titles 36 and 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and the agency's policy to "foster and encourage" mineral development.

The purpose of the project is to:

- Respond to the Application for Permit to Drill that DOC submitted to the BLM



- Review the Surface Use Plan of Operation (SUPO)
- Provide Conditions of Approval (COAs) to the BLM

DOC has applied to drill this exploratory oil and gas well to determine if oil and gas reserves identified in the Wildwood 2D Geophysical Project (conducted in 2014) are economically viable to develop and produce. There are currently only seven active oil and gas wells within five miles of the proposed location, all on private lands east of Weld County Road 77. There are only 14 active oil and gas wells between five and ten miles of the proposed location, all on State or private lands.

The FS will review and disclose the potential effects (as required by NEPA) of the proposed action. The FS will recommend the COAs under which DOC would use National Forest System lands. The BLM has sole authority to approve the Application for Permit to Drill.

The Proposed Action as described in this letter is the alternative being considered. If any new issues related to the effects of implementing the proposed action are identified through the comments received in response to this request, it may be refined or another alternative may be developed. You can also find information about this project at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47693>. If you have questions relating to this proposal or want more information about it, please contact NEPA Planner, Mary Ann Chambers by email at [machambers@fs.fed.us](mailto:machambers@fs.fed.us) or by phone (970) 834-9288.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Pawnee National Grassland.

Sincerely,

Vernon E Koehler

Acting  
for

CURTIS YOUNGMAN  
District Ranger